It was also clarified to the prospective bidders that 'public authoirty' means entity/authority/organization/enterprise controlled by the Government, *e.g.* a public sector undertaking. Only one such entity may be permitted to operate the service in a given service area.

Since, either Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited or Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, which are public sector undertakings, have already got licences for CMTS to cover whole of the country, VSNL was not eligible for grant of the licence.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana Kendras in Gujarat

2471. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats willing to introduce Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana Kendras (PSSYKs) in Gujarat;

(b) the number of PSSYKs proposed to be set up in the State; and

(c) the number of PSSYKs yet to be set up and by when the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 133 Gram Panchayats expressed willingness to avail facility of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) and accordingly 133 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) were set up upto 31-03-2001.

(b) and (c) A target of setting up 90 new Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras has been fixed for Gujarat Circle for the year 2001-2002.

Out of order telephones due to rain

2472. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to heavy rain, thousands of telephones become out of order every year;

(b) the steps Government are taken to avoid such recurrence every monsoon; and

(c) the reasons for such things happening every year and the persons responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Proper coordination with the Civic agencies like water works, electricity department etc.;